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xanana gusmão

STATEMENT

The East Timorese political process has undergone significant developments over the last few months. The UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has already pronounced himself on the brief delaying of the Consultation formerly set for 8 August 1999.

All parties involved in this process, and obviously the UN Secretary General, are unanimous in considering that the existence of conditions of security and tranquillity in East Timor is a prerequisite and a *sine qua none* condition for the holding of a free, fair and democratic consultation.

In this moment of decision, I wish to reaffirm my full confidence in the evaluation of the situation in East Timor made by the UN Secretary General and the UN Assistance Mission to East Timor (UNAMET), and consequently, in the decision on the manner in which the New York Agreement signed on 5 May 1999 should be implemented, particularly in relation to the date of the popular consultation.

I hereby express our firm commitment to continue to work and co-operate with all parties involved in the process, so as to guarantee to the People of East Timor the needed and yearned for peace and tranquillity.

An event of crucial importance for the East Timorese political process is about to take place: the Dialogue and Reconciliation meetings. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Reverend Bishops, D. Carlos Ximenes Belo e D. Basilio do Nascimento, for the remarkable efforts they have made for these meetings to become a reality.

The Dialogue and Reconciliation meetings, which will take place in Jakarta in the coming days, would not have been possible without the co-operation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. I wish to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the Government and diplomatic officials in the various Indonesian diplomatic representations throughout the world to facilitate the travels of the East Timorese in the Diaspora who will participate in these meetings.

I send my heartfelt and cordial greetings to all my East Timorese Brothers and Sisters who will participate in the Dialogue and Reconciliation meetings. It is our duty to present the People of East Timor with the outcome it expects: ensure the tranquillity and peace of mind they have been yearning for so long. I trust that all of us, together, will prove worthy of the confidence and respect of our People.

Salemba, 23 June 1999

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão